

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NAPLES 00922 171242Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONGEN NAPLES IT

TO AMEMB ROME IT

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5111

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAPLES 922

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: CAMPANIA REGIONAL JUNTA AND ASSEMBLY

1. AS I HAVE STATED OFTEN, POLITICS IN SOUTHERN ITALY ARE LARGELY PERSONALIZED, MOTIVATED BY SELF-INTEREST AND MARKED BY COLLUSION AND INTRIGUE. THE RECONSTITUTION OF THE CENTER-LEFT CAMPANIA REGIONAL JUNTA LAST WEEK, WHICH WAS DISSOLVED THREE MONTHS AGO WHEN ITS PRESIDENT (NICOLA MANCINO) DECIDED TO RUN FOR THE SENATE, IS THE LATEST EXAM\$PLE OF SOUTHERN POLITICS. MR. MANCINO, WHO IS A DE MITIANO AND NOW ALSO A SENATOR, HAS NOW BEEN REPLACED BY ANOTHER DE MITIANO DC'ER NAMED GASPARE RUSSO. ON THE ASSEMBLY SIDE PSI PRESIDENT PORCELLI HAS BEEN REPLACED BY 2CI MARIO GOMEZ D'AYALA. COUNCILORS FROM THE DC, PSI, PRI, PLI AND PSDI MAKE UP THE REST OF THE COUNCIL.

PAGE 02 RUFRSGG1145 C O N F I D E N T I A L NAPLES 922

2. THREE PERTINENT OBSERVATIONS OR NOTES ON THE ELECTION OF RUSSO AND GOMEZ ARE IN ORDER: (A) THE PCI VOTED IN FAVOR OF RUSSO INSTEAD OF ABSTAINING AS IT DID LAST TIME; (B) GAVA FAILED TO INSTALL ONE OF HIS OWN MEN AS PRESIDENT OF THE JUNTA WHICH SHOWS THAT HIS POWER HAS SLIPPED BELOW THE 50 PERCENT LEVEL, AND (C) PSDI REGIONAL COUNCILOR PASQUALE CONSTANZA ASKED TO SEE ME LAST WEDNESDAY TO SAY HE WAS STRONGLY ANTI-COMMUNIST AND THAT HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LONG DELAY IN THE FORMATION OF THE NEW JUNTA AND
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PAGE 02 NAPLES 00922 171242Z

ASSEMBLY. HE ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT HE HAD THE NECESSARY INFLUENCE

TO BLOCK INSTALLATION OF BOTH ADMINISTRATIONS AS LONG AS A COMMUNIST
WAS THE SOLE CANDIDATE FOR THE ASSEMBLY PRESIDENCY. HE THEN ASKED
ME IF THE USG COULD FINANCE AN IMMEDIATE VISIT TO THE U.S. FOR HIM.
MY RESPONSE TO THE EFFECT THAT I COULD NOT GUARANTEE APPROVAL OF
SUCH A TRIP APPARENTLY RESULTED IN A CHANGE OF HEART ON HIS PART FOR
THE VERY NEXT DAY HE ACCEPTED ONE OF TWO SECRETARYSHIPS ON THE
REGIONAL ASSEMBLY AND REGISTERED HIS VOTE IN FAVOR OF PCI MARIO
GOMEZ D'AYALA AS PRESIDENT. HIS ACTION REINFORCES THE VIEW THAT AS
A GROUP ITALIAN POLITICIANS ARE INTERESTED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY IN
FEATHERING THEIR OWN NESTS. COLANTONIO

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